

E # 1913

Doc. No. 8206*

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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W A R D E P A R T M E N T

Judge Advocate General's Department
United States of America

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF NINETEEN
AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE BOMBING
OF AN AMMUNITION FACTORY AT MUKDEN,
MANCHURIA.

)
) Deposition by
) HERMAN HALL
) Corporal ASN 13035003
)
)
)

Taken at : Letterman General Hospital
San Francisco, California

Date : 2 October 1945

In the Presence of : Edward D. Sykes
Agent, SIC, CD, HSC

Questions by : Edward D. Sykes
Agent, SIC, CD, HSC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

- Q. What is your name, age, rank, serial number and permanent address?
- A. My name is Herman Hall, age 26, Corporal, ASN 13035003 and my permanent address is Democrat, Kentucky.
- Q. On what dates were you inducted, sent overseas, and returned from overseas?
- A. I enlisted 18 June 1941, went overseas 4 October 1941, returned 29 September 1945.
- Q. Were you ever a prisoner of war of any of the Axis powers?
- A. Yes.
- Q. State the organization with which you were serving at the time of your capture, and when, where and by whom you were taken into custody, or otherwise made a prisoner of war.
- A. Headquarters Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group, U.S. Army Air Force. I was captured 6 May 1942 by the Japanese at Corregidor.
- Q. Where were you kept and what were your movements while you were in such custody?
- A. Cabanatuan #3 from 6 June 1942 to October 1942, Hoten Camp, Mukden, Manchuria, November 1942 to August 1945.
- Q. Were you an eye-witness to any illegal conduct, either by way of omission or commission, the part of Axis nationals or soldiers which resulted in the death or serious injury of any American national?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Describe in detail the conduct which you believe to be illegal, giving particulars as to the nature thereof, the name and identification of the victim and of the accused.
- A. While I was stationed at Camp Hoten, Mukden, Manchuria, I, together with a large number of other Allied prisoners, was quartered in three barracks inside the prison compound. This prison compound and our barracks were located a distance about five hundred to six hundred yards from a large Japanese ammunition factory. The ammunition factory and our barracks were both camouflaged in the same manner and from the air would appear to be one large factory. There was no designation whatever on our prisoner of war camp distinguishing it from the factory or giving notice that it was a prisoner of war camp. On about the 7th of December, about

mid-day, a group of American B-29s came over and began to bomb the ammunition factory. At the time this bombing began I, together with the other prisoners, was in the barracks in the prison compound. The Japanese refused to allow us to come out of the barracks and take cover. However, they took cover in the fox-holes surrounding the prison compound. In a very short time one of the American bombers scored a direct hit on the ammunition factory and the whole factory "went up." After this happened the Japanese allowed us to come out of our barracks and lie flat on the parade ground in the prison compound. A moment after we had come out of the barracks a bomb from the American planes hit in the parade ground and caused the death of 19 men and seriously injured about 30 more men. Some of these injured men later lost arms and legs as a result of the bombing. One of the men who was killed was Alex Sable of the U.S. Air Force. The others' names are unknown to me. After the bombing was over the injured men were taken to the dispensary and a Japanese came into the dispensary and requested the injured Americans to write letters to the commanding officer of the U.S. Air Force and request that the camp not be bombed again. I understand that several of the men wrote letters but that in the letters they requested that the commanding officer of the U.S. Air Force send over more planes and more often. I am quite positive that these letters were never posted by the Japanese.

- Q. Do you have, or know the location of, any physical evidence, such as photographs, relating to this incident?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know the name of or can you identify any other eye-witnesses to this incident?
- A. Sgt. Billy D. Templeton, U.S. Army Air Force, 19th Group.
- Q. Does the testimony you have given herein cover all the pertinent details of this incident which you are able to remember?
- A. Yes.

/s/ HERMAN HALL
HERMAN HALL
Corporal ASN 13035003

STATE OF CALIFORNIA :
: SS
City and County of San Francisco :

I, HERMAN HALL, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation, consisting of 4 pages, including this and the title page, and that all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ HERMAN HALL
Herman Hall

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of October, 1945,
at San Francisco, California.

/s/ HARRYMAN DORSEY
Harryman Dorsey
1st Lt, JAGD
Summary Court

STATE OF :
: SS
County of :

I, _____, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions asked and answers given and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing _____ pages, including this and the title page, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence initialed each page of the deposition and affixed his signature thereto.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 19____, at _____.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA :
: SS
City and County of San Francisco :

I, EDWARD D. SYKES, certify that (name) HERMAN HALL, (Rank) Corporal, (ASN) 13025003, personally appeared before me on the 2 day of October, 1945, and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by (him) to the several questions set forth.

Place: San Francisco, California
Date: 2 October 1945

/s/ EDWARD D. SYKES
Edward D. Sykes
Agent, SIC, CD, NSC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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HERMAN BAILE 伍長

私ハ一九四二年ノ昭和十七年ノ五月六日コレヒ
ドール★デ日本人ニ捕ヘラレマシタ。

一九四二年ノ昭和十七年ノ十一月カラ一九四五
年ノ昭和二十年ノ八月マデ滿洲國奉天收容所ニ居
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私ガ滿洲國奉天★ノ奉天收容所ニ收容サレテキ
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識モアリマセ~~ル~~デ~~ハ~~モ~~ハ~~タ~~リ~~ノ眞實
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他ノ俘虜達ト共ニ俘虜收容所樺内ノ兵舎ノ中ニ居
リマシタ日本人ハ我々が兵舎カラ出テ避難スル事
ヲ許シマセンデシタ。然モ日本人ハ收容所樺内ノ
周囲ニアル峭壁ノ中ニ避難シマシタ。マモナクア
メリカノ爆撃機ハソノ兵器工場ニ直撃ヲ命中サ
セソシテ全工場ヲ爆破セシメマシタ。
此ノ爆撃ノ後日本人ハ私達が兵舎カラ出テ俘虜收
容所樺内ノ練兵所ノ上ニフセル事ヲ許シマシタ。
私達が兵舎カラ出ルヤイナヤ、アメリカノ飛行機
カラノ爆撃ノ一ツガ練兵所ニ命中シ十人ガ死亡
シ三十数人ガ重傷ヲ受ケマシタ爆撃ノ後ニコレ等
ノ負傷シタ人々ノ中知人カハ後ニナツテ手足ヲ失ヒ
ヒマシタ。

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